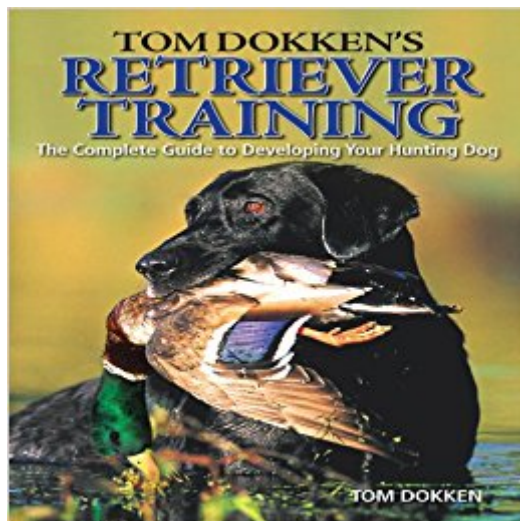


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# Tom Dokken's Retriever Training



## Synopsis

Retrievers are the most popular dog breed in America and Tom Dokken is the most respected name in the retriever training field. Using proven tips, readers can field train their dog in just minutes a day and bring new levels of fun and excitement to the hunt. Dogs will love the challenge and owners will marvel at the quick results.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Tom Dokken has more than 30 years of experience turning retrievers into successful field trial competitors, hunt test participants, waterfowling companions, and upland bird finders. Tom is the creator of the popular Dokken Deadfowl Trainer, and Dokken's Oak Ridge Kennels in Northfield, MN., is one of the largest all-breed hunting dog training facilities in the United States.

Tom Dokken covers all aspects of training retrievers in a complete, concise, and clear manner. I think Tom excels at explaining the methods, reasons, and potential problems for each training stage. I'm getting a Springer Spaniel pup in a couple months, and I plan on using most of Tom's methods. I won't cover all the waterfowl training because I mostly upland hunt for pheasant, grouse, and partridge. I'm also not going to initially force-fetch train because the other related Springers that I've already hunted with have typically been soft mouthed and very natural retrievers. If hard-mouth or retrieving issues do develop later, I will have to go back and do that though. Even if you don't plan to hunt your dog, if you've ever seen a dog well-trained on the Place command, I think you'd agree it is absolutely one of the most useful all-around commands to teach your dog. Tom really covers this

well. Although I plan to send my pup back to the breeder/trainer for several weeks prior to it's first hunting season a year from now, I should be able to already have my pup well-schooled in basic obedience, place command, and retrieving prior to that so I can maximize that training time. I'd also recommend getting Tom's training videos so you can see his methods in actual practice. I'm still working through those videos myself.

I can't say enough about this book. I own and have read a number of books on bird-dog training. And yet this is the one I keep going back to reference. I have a lab that I wanted to train for both waterfowl AND upland birds (knowing, that I would likely be using her more for upland birds than waterfowl.) This book does a phenomenal job of training simultaneously for both jobs. Candidly, I had my dog out in the field after completing just a few chapters worth of training drills. And although my friends RAVE about my dog, I haven't even finished all the training outlined in the book! (Yes, I've finished reading it, but not training my dog through everything.... I have a ridiculously busy schedule.) Whenever I have friends that want their Labs to do what mine does, I get them this book.

Very well written and very clear. The first half is focused on basic obedience training whether you plan to ever hunt or not. The rest is focused on retrieving in a hunting environment, some of which is also good for fun retrieving. You will need lots of open space to work on advanced retrieving skills as well as access to birds and guns. Pistol, 410, 20 and 12 gauge. Pigeons, Chucker, Hen Pheasants and Rooster Pheasants, dead and alive.

absolutely one of the best training books I've ever read! very easy to read and comprehend and it's a plus that he's from a Midwest state to understand cold weather antics as well!

This is a great book written by THE expert when it comes to training and hunting with retrievers. Gives solid descriptions of the different strategies, breaks it down into steps, and includes helpful pictures. Only problem I have with the book is I wish the order of some of the advice would be reevaluated. There are some tips and pointers from chapter 4 and 5 that I think should have been brought up early. This is a very minor inconvenience when weighed against the benefits of the book as a whole. So, my recommendation would be to just read through the first 5 or so chapters as soon as possible, and preferably before you have purchased your dog or any equipment or supplies for your dog.

I have trained a few gun dogs and read many books on the subject and Tom Dokken's is the best I've come across for those wanting to train a hunter/retriever. His use of the "pressure on- pressure off" principle is eloquently explained and consistently executed. I was so impressed with the beautiful young CBR I trained according to Tom's nicely-timed and -illustrated instructions that I decided to give her a litter to keep her strain going - and I've just bought nine of Tom's books to give to each lucky owner of her new pups!

Great book. Very informative and helped us train our lab

A clear and concise training method. The pics are helpful, the words are written so everyone can understand and have fun training their dog to be their amazing hunting partner. I have trusted Tom's way of training and even after my dog is already doing well in the field, I still refer to this book as a guide or a go-to for quick questions or scenarios we encounter. Highly recommend.

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